

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY H. J. MORRISON

The Journal.—Our JOURNAL is one year old. The Society is to be congratulated for the successful launching of this cherished dream. It is with considerable wonder that it survived at all. If it had not been for the self-sacrificing enthusiasm of our Editor, H. S. Bailey, it would not have passed its first quarter. Shortly after launching the first number business reverses of the corporation with which Mr. Bailey was connected forced the closing of his laboratory and dispersal of his organization. He entered a new field of endeavor quite different from his former interest and environments. With the load of organizing, planning, and installing much of a new plant in a new line with which he was not familiar, he still carried on for this Society the work he had undertaken. For a lesson in loyalty to a cause and his fellows, I point to Mr. H. S. Bailey. This society owes a debt of gratitude to him which cannot be paid in full. The balance, I am sure, will be funded in the hearts of his fellow members and will pay dividends to him as opportunities occur.

Any one familiar with the formation of organizations knows how easy it is to draw a pretty picture of a smooth running machine on paper, but the rub comes in filling the positions in this picture with proper persons. We had an easy problem in the start of our journalistic career. We are now faced with difficulties. These have been lightened by Mr. Bailey consenting to carry on for a further time. It is quite evident, however, that with his interests now quite foreign to the subjects dealt with in our periodical, it will be an imposition to ask him to continue in active charge longer than necessary to find a solution.

Membership.—Due to continued business troubles, retrenchments and reorganizations in lines to which many of our members belonged, we lost many. This condition threw a great burden upon our Membership Committee to take up this large deficit. It has, however, been accomplished as the report of the Chairman of this committee will show.

The horizon now seems clear and it is our hope that the way is opened for enlarging the membership very materially this coming year.

The F. A. C. and Detergents Committee.—A step forward, I believe, has been made in the broadening of our activities, which has been our aim for several years past by the addition of these two committees.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Sampling and Analysis of Commercial Fats and Oils of The American Chemical Society, better known as the F. A. C., at a meeting in Chicago brought up the subject

of serving in the same capacity for The American Oil Chemists' Society. After full discussion, the main argument of which was the obvious desirability of concentration and singleness of endeavor, avoiding duplication of work and possible differences or non-uniformity of methods, which would undoubtedly occur with two committees of differing personnel. Other advantages of such an arrangement were and are obvious, but I will not take time here to discuss these. The F. A. C. were with one exception members of this Society, and the exception does not now exist. The committee has also been enlarged by adding some members who have been most active in the affairs of this Society, further amalgamating and strengthening the committee.

The Detergents Committee had for its foundation the Committee on the Sampling and Analysis of Soaps and Allied Products of The American Chemical Society. To this committee have been added a number of associate members with full powers who are not all members of this Society. These associate members represent interests whose consent to methods, specifications, etc., it is necessary to obtain, and whose views from the buying and commercial angle are invaluable.

With these committees now fully under way it is the hope that we can arouse the interest of all our brother chemists and technologists by the various lines of oil and fat technology to give us their active support and assistance.

I am quite sure we have and will have in our endeavors for closer cooperation in these industries the hearty support of men of broad views and especially of many editors of technical journals. I wish here to express to these my thanks for their cooperation this past year.

Referee Chemists.—Experience makes perfect. Our committee is having new experiences continuously and, in consequence, finds it necessary to modify and tighten up its rules on the issuance of certificates. The object is not to exclude any one worthy but to mark those who do obtain a certificate from this Society as an expert and worthy of the full confidence of the public, with the endorsement of this Society collectively and individually without reservation back of them. On the other hand, they must appreciate their responsibility to this Society and their profession, which I think is not a light one.

The Constitution and By-Laws.—At the appropriate time you will be asked to pass on some changes in our Constitution and By-Laws.

When drawing our constitution we were assured that meetings held outside the State of Louisiana would have the same force and effect as a meeting within this state. This was later found to be not the case. A curative act, known as Act 190, approved July, 1924, has been passed allowing societies such as ours to hold meetings and transact business outside the state with the same force and effect as within the state. An article should, therefore, be

added to our constitution taking advantage of this broader liberty of action. A resolution prepared by our attorneys has been mailed to all members.

The By-Laws likewise need revision. These proposed changes were printed in the April number of our JOURNAL. The necessity of these changes is to conform to certain regulations of the Post Office Department, making clear that all members are bona-fide subscribers to our official JOURNAL. This change will give us the privilege of the lowest classification. This will also be retroactive as a rebate will be allowed our Publishing Department on the number already sent out for which bond has been posted.

Publication of Methods.—If methods as a whole are not printed frequently and in a convenient form, amendments and additions become scattered through several volumes. Often these volumes are not of the handiest size.

In the past and so far as we know in the future, we have been fortunate in having our rules as applied to cottonseed products printed for us at a cost of fifty cents per volume to non-members of the Interstate Cotton Seed Crushers' Association. These rules do not present a problem. The F. A. C. and Detergents Committee Methods, however, do.

A scheme to overcome this has been proposed which will not entail any expense to the Society. It is a loose leaf compilation which, of course, can always be kept up to date in a single and compact form. The advantages of such a publication are not confined to its convenience only. Its distribution to others will add, I believe, to our prestige and give desired publicity to our name and methods. Regarding the latter, I might observe in passing it is one thing to get up uniform methods, and another to have these methods not only recognized as official but used in all their details, and only by having these methods up to date and in a convenient form can we hope to have details followed.

In conclusion. I shall always look back upon my year tenure of office with the greatest pleasure. I have not made a request of a single member which has not been cheerfully acceded to. To one and all, I extend my heartiest thanks for your cordial cooperation. The honor of having presided over the destinies of The American Oil Chemists' Society is in itself a source of great pride. For enabling me to attain this honor, I am also grateful to all of you. My one anxiety has been my inability to have accomplished more for the Society.

I know the Society is on firm ground and is on the road to accomplish more and to spread its influence to other lines which have not had the benefit of a well organized and experienced association with the high ideals whose members one and all have helped for the common good and submergerd personal interests.

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